

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS STATE 283580

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (CONGRESSMAN DAVID MARTIN)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO COLOMBO BY RETIRING CONGRESSMAN

DAVID MARTIN

1. RETIRING CONGRESSMAN DAVID MARTIN OF NEBRASKA AND MRS. MARTIN WILL VISIT COLOMBO FEBRUARY 26 ABOARD CRUISE SHIP S.S. ROYAL VIKING SEA. SHIP SCHEDULED ARRIVE 8 AM AND DEPART MIDNIGHT. CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE ASKED ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF CAR TRANSPORTATION AND INQUIRED WHETHER EMBASSY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE COULD MEET CONGRESSMAN AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. HE IS INTERESTED IN SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING, INCLUDING GEMS.

2. SRI LANKA COUNTRY OFFICER (LEADER) HAS RESPONDED THAT EMBASSY IS USUALLY TIGHT ON STAFF CARS AND HE DOUBTED ONE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. HE OFFERED SOLICIT EMBASSY HELP IN BOOKING TOURIST CAR BUT CONGRESSMAN MARTIN PRESENTLY IS NOT INTERESTED. LEADER SAID HE THOUGHT SOMEONE FROM EMBASSY COULD MEET AND ASSIST MARTINS.

3. PLEASE ADVISE IF EMBASSY CAN MEET AND ASSIST. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PASS ON ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE FOR CONGRESSMAN MARTIN REGARDING VISIT TO COLOMBO.
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